

THE MCGILL DAILY

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The road to hell...since 1911

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1994

Student federation votes for NATIONAL STUDENT STRIKE

January 25: day of protest against social reforms

BY CHRISTINE VILA

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) has put calls for nationwide student action against the Liberals' proposed cuts to post-secondary education into a concrete plan.

At its November 7-14 annual general meeting the CFS voted to stage a one-day nationwide strike in protest against the Liberal government's social security reform proposals on Jan. 25, 1994.

The CFS is a national student organization representing more than 50 campuses across the country. McGill's Post Graduate Students' Society is a member, but SSMU is not. Designed to give students a powerful voice in both tiers of government, it typically deals with student concerns such as tuition fees and social justice issues.

Delegates voted for the strike to speak out against the federal government's move toward privatization of student loans and the funding of education. Many delegates agreed that action against the social security reform proposals was the single most important element of the general meeting this year.

"This year, students from across the country have joined together and agreed that one of the most critical things facing students is the social program review," said Chloe Burgess of Malaspina Students' Union, from Malaspina Community College, B.C. "We are going to strike."

She underlined the importance of the CFS's voice. "According to *Maclean's* magazine two years ago, we're one of the top ten most powerful lobbying organizations in the country."

Burgess added, "It's something that should keep people going because if we don't join together at this point and fight what's coming up, people who will attend post-secondary institutions are going to be much different than people now."

Andrea Harrington, chair of the Trent University Student Union, expressed her support for the strike. "I think that our coalition partners are really counting on students who can get large numbers of people out, who can do effective media action

to speak not just for our concerns, which is education, but for theirs as well.

"We're looking at a complete change in Canada's way of life, and if we just limit ourselves to lobbying... then I think we're letting a lot of people down. We really need to support this," she stressed.

John-Henry Harty, CFS B.C. deputy chair of the North Island Student Association expressed agreement. "I would really encourage people to support this motion. Anything less would be selling out the working class, the working poor, all the marginalized people.

"Every constituency group has a stake in this action. It's crucial. If we don't stand up for this, we may as well lie down and accept privatization of post-secondary education. This is so important," he added.

Others such as Kelly Lamrock, president of the University of New Brunswick Student Alliance, was not sure that threats were the best way to broker an agreement between the CFS and the federal government. "I feel like I'm being asked to vote for the Charlottetown accord all over again. There seems to be a lot of, 'You have to vote yes,' and the feeling that if we don't, the sky is going to fall. That's not the way to sell this."

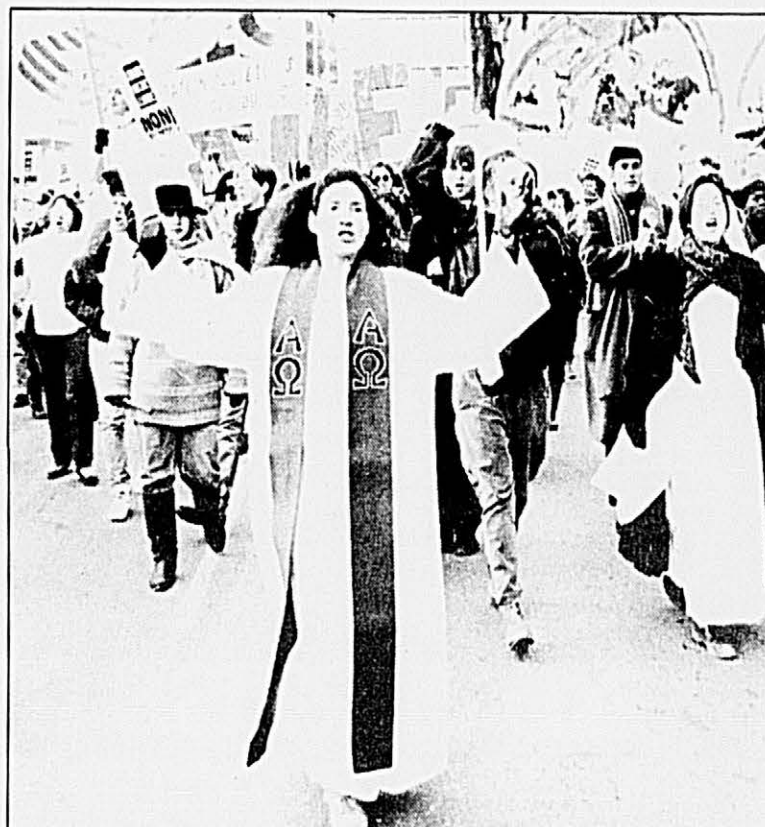
Objections to the strike were soundly defeated in a vote of 36-10, with seven abstentions.

Burgess explained, "The way we work, which is democratically — one member, one vote — results in some groups of students feeling that their needs weren't met. But that's what happens when you have a plenary that passes policies and directives by the majority, or in the case of policy, by two-thirds."

The University of Ottawa's initiative to protest on Parliament Hill on Nov. 16 was widely supported by CFS members. While Burgess supported the Parliament Hill demonstration, she still felt that national action was necessary.

"[The November 16 demonstration] is regional because only certain campuses can get there. But it [was] also in Ottawa, where the politicians [were] going to be sitting that day, where the national news media is, and I think it [could have been] a catalyst to get the momentum of the students up in this country, to get them angry, get them fighting."

"It will carry us all the way through to our Jan. 25 strike, when it's nationwide. The U of O strike can be the first step in a domino effect across the country," she concluded.



In 1990, tens of thousands of Québec students joined a strike to protest the "Dégel" — Robert Bourassa's decision to hike tuition 300 per cent over three years. McGill students waffled on the issue, voting to strike and then, a few weeks later, not to strike. About 100 McGill students refused to attend classes anyway in solidarity with other Québec university students.

Parizeau speaks outside Québec

BY CHERIE PAYNE

Yesterday Premier Jacques Parizeau made his first official trip outside of Québec, to tell "Canadians" that Québec separation is inevitable. He addressed a polite, but not enthusiastic crowd of businesspeople at Toronto's Canadian Club. He pushed a type of sovereignty-association, emphasizing that in the event of separation, Québec would still maintain economic ties to the rest of Canada. He continually referred to Québec and the rest of Canada as if they were already two completely separate countries.

Perhaps the most surprising as-

pect of Parizeau's address was his effort to stress that separatists are not ethnocentric exclusionists. Several critics of the separatist movement have charged that Québec sovereigntists' desire to build a Québec for the Québécois is racist. They question the place of allophones and other minority groups in a nation for Québécois.

This issue was highlighted during the provincial election campaign in August, when the Liberal campaign slogan was "Québec pour tous les Québécois" (Québec for all Quebecers). The nationalist appeal has traditionally been: "Québec aux Québécois" (Québec for the

Québécois). Critics say that this contrast served as a distinct reminder of the racial overtones of the separatist movement.

But in yesterday's address, Parizeau deliberately downplayed this element of the sovereigntist movement. "Québec society is quite close to becoming blind to ethnicity," he claimed. The premier pointed to the fact that several of Québec's most recent premiers have been of Irish descent as evidence of this.

He also stated that a recent television show used actress Marina Orsini to portray a "traditional rural Québec woman", even though

"she is not descended from Normandy". Similarly, Parizeau observed that the Canadian Jewish Congress has noted that many of Québec's top officials are Jewish, and that this is in direct contrast to the anti-Semitism he sees in Toronto.

The premier felt that the inclusion of non-Québécois people in these areas is demonstrative of Québec's open mindedness. "This is hardly the attitude of a population stuck on ethnicity," he boasted.

The premier compared Québec's treatment of minority

continued on page 8

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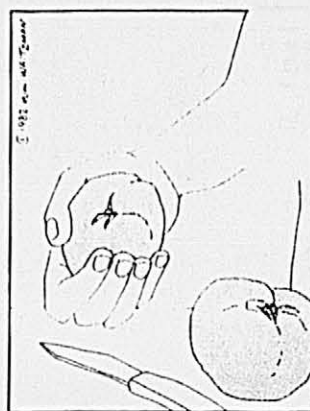
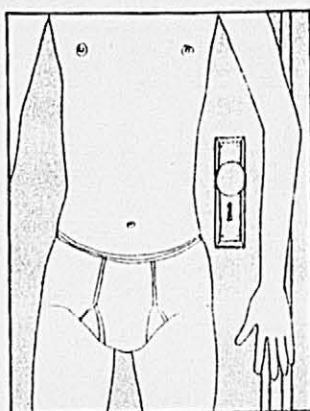
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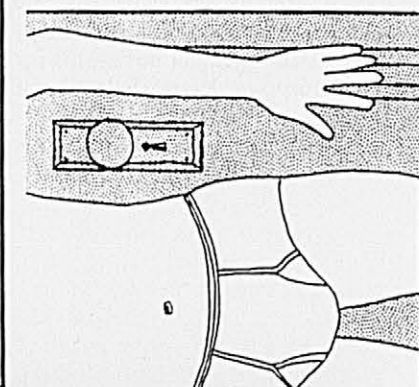
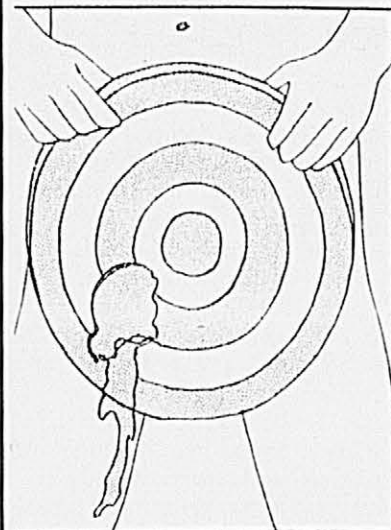
The Dean maintains a very close working relationship with students, student organizations and student leaders, faculty and administration in both academic and non-academic matters, advocating student concerns. The office is concerned with the needs and the continuing improvement of the quality of student life in general, the coordination and enhancement of the activities of the various student services and student residences, the athletics programs, and the provision of aid to individual students who have problems of an academic or personal nature. Facility in French is desirable.

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Dr. T.H. Chan
Vice-Principal (Academic)
5th Floor, James Administration Building

and must be received by January 31, 1995.

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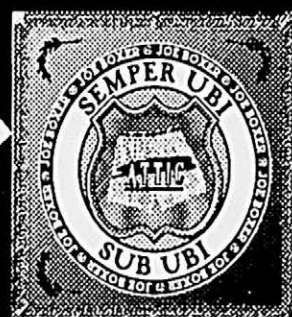


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LETTERS

In defense of Cabaret

To the Daily,

Re: "Welcome and bienvenue au Cabaret" in the november 17, 1994 issue.

As a performer and regular theatre goer, I think you are sadly mistaken in your review of Cabaret. All the "atmosphere was 'lacking'", was your accurate perception of it.

It was the first act, not the second act that had all the funny glitzy numbers. As the master of ceremonies, Luke Hutton's "humour" was not forced or "unbelievable" but hysterically funny and entertaining according to myself and the audience who were laughing uncontrollably.

Luke's performance is dynamic and he deserves credit for his work. He was definitely the "centre of my entertainment" and that of the audience who gave him and the show a standing ovation. The political aspect of the play is fully developed from the pre-show slides of Nazi propaganda and political revolt to the very narrative action, not to mention the underlying tension.

The dramatic action is fuelled by the Nazi, Ernst Ludwig (Steve Schelling) and his smuggling of documents for Nazi purposes; Herr Schulz (David Mills) as the Jewish shop owner and Fraulein Schneider (Jessi Baden) as his intended, and the tragedy of their relationship due to the Nazi uprising.

All these inaccuracies lead me to question whether you were watching the same play I was, Matthew Birthday Boy Paterson. Or was it just all that celebrating that determined the criteria of your review: i.e. cheap beer and cheap propositions better suited to a review of Peel Pub on a Saturday night.

Under the direction of Robert Cohen who "should strike fear into the heart of every director over 30 in town" (according to Pat Donnelly of the Gazette), Cabaret is not only "probably" but definitely worth seeing.

Elizabeth Valentina
U3 Arts

To the Daily,

During my coffee break on Thursday morning, I happened to pick up a copy of the Daily Culture and flipped to the article reviewing Cabaret by Matthew Paterson.

Since I too had attended the opening performance of Cabaret at Players' Theatre on November 15, I was led to question if Paterson had mistakenly locked himself next door at the Ski Sale in the Ballroom and therefore wrote his slant with an unintended "downhill" slant.

Paterson continually supplied criticisms of the show which are plainly wrong. To suggest that the atmosphere during Cabaret's show was "lacking" is a bizarre suggestion. Was he not sitting in the same theatre as I, in which over one hundred patrons laughed hysterically at the antics of "Clara", the cabaret regular, while gleefully drinking beer?

To forward that the Kit Kat was not "a place of gaiety" and lacked "glitz and pomp" is absurd. To propound that the

Master of Ceremonies (Luke Hutton) was not humorous and not entertaining is ludicrous; myself and another 95 per cent of the audience found his performance positively electric, as was evident by the continuous applause he garnered and the booming cheer he received during the curtain call.

Finally, to report that the second act was a vast improvement over the second because it "was full of energetic dancing and singing" is plainly untrue: the second act of Cabaret is decidedly serious, and contains only slower ballads with very little brisk dancing.

I have no vested interest in the success of Cabaret, and I too do recognise that the production did have some minor weaknesses. However, it is unfortunate that your paper should allow a clearly inexperienced and incompetent reviewer to give a shoddy account of what should be a highly lauded and appreciated production. Student theatre projects such as Cabaret deserve to be supported, not unjustifiably knocked.

Hilary Schwartz
U3 Arts

Discuss the real issues

The following letter is a reprint of one which ran in the Monday, November 21 issue of the Daily. Due to editorial error, lines were accidentally omitted in the first printing. Here is the letter as it should have appeared. The Daily apologises for any inconvenience caused.

To the Daily,

I am writing this is the (probably futile) hope that I will never again be subjected to the inane chatter over who first squatted the eastern Mediterranean littoral, the Arabs or the Jews. Haven't all you eager letter writers figured out yet, that after a century or so of debate this issue is still going nowhere and you are all just parroting lines we've heard before?

I can make a plausible case for either side. I can also quote horrible deeds and words from either side. It is incredibly naïve to apply morality to politics and argue that people have a "right" to land, whether due to their collective ethical superiority (we're nicer than they are) or to their seniority (we were here first!).

The whole debate is rooted in 19th century nationalist assumptions that "peoples" have "natural" homelands — a thing that should have gone out of fashion with Hitler. Should we send the Celts back to Russia, the Aryans (sic) to India and should we give Quebec back to the First Nations (actually, maybe we're on to something here...).

The fact is, people are not rooted to the soil, they have moved throughout history, and what we must deal with is current reality. Historical injustice should be recognised, studied and corrected where possible, but not in a blind idealistic fashion which creates still more injustice.

So given that Jews live in Israel and Arabs live in Palestine, how can resources, land and administrative institutions be distributed and utilized to contribute to the fulfilment and happiness of each? Is it feasible or desirable to have a Jewish state and what form should it take?

HYDE PARK

Said and the Struggle for Palestine

An opinion submitted by Rafiq al-Samandal

This essay is about Edward Said, the eminent humanist proponent of Palestinian self-determination. It attempts to illuminate the underlying causes and intentions behind knavish comments against Said and what he represents in the West.

Let me put this objective in the context of the following quotation: "It is no exaggeration to say that for the first time in our struggle against Zionism the West appears ready to hear our side of the story. Therefore we must tell it; we must stand in the international theatre created out of our struggle against Zionism, and there we must diffuse our message dramatically." (*The Question of Palestine*, p. 232)

As in most national liberation struggles, the arena of contest between colonizers (Zionist settlers) and colonized (Palestinians) is not only over the land subject to colonization, but also over the very idea of the homeland.

The stubborn Zionist reference to the West Bank as Judea and Samaria, and its liberation (from whom, its indigenous inhabitants?) in 1967, is a vivid illustration of this point. Insistence on the very idea of Palestine, then, has been central to the Palestinian struggle for national liberation.

With wit and grit, Said has articulated the Palestinian position to a Western audience largely deluded by the Zionist version of the Palestinian-Zionist conflict, reminding them of Israel's continuing colonization of Palestine and its occupation of other Arab land.

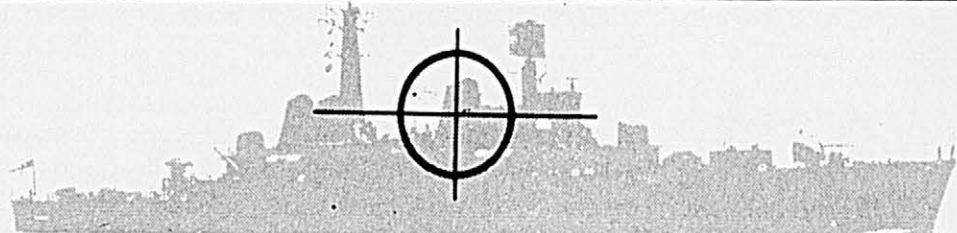
I think that more than anything else, this is the real cause behind recent jaundiced remarks against Said. This intentions are clear: to inhibit the dissemination of the Palestinian side of the story. There is the uneasy feeling that the Palestinian cause is gaining solid ground in the West and something has to be done to reverse this trend.

What better way to achieve this objective than by targeting its most celebrated representative? Of course, an alternative tactic is to silence the very forums used to disseminate the Palestinian story in a free and fair exchange of ideas. How else can one explain the rude charge against such forums of serving as Arab props, while cautioning them to verify their information by consulting biased sources? If this is not a call for censorship of the Palestinian story then what is?

The Saidian phenomenon should not be limited to those among us to whom the call of the Arab homeland, but especially Palestine, is ever urgent. Rather, it should serve to animate our anaesthetised conscience to the myriad tragedies of a world growing increasingly cruel and oppressive.

In this hope, I will give the final word to Said who, in commenting on the intellectual vocation, noted how the "intellectual's representations... are always tied to and ought to remain an organic part of an ongoing experience in society: of the poor, the disadvantaged, the voiceless, the unrepresented, the powerless." (*Representations of the Intellectual*, p. 113) It is on behalf of these oppressed groups that we should mobilize our collective energies in the service of liberation and equality.

... LETTERS



Given that Arabs will not tolerate Israeli overlordship, what sort of collective organisation is appropriate for them (state? Islamic state? Federation?). Please, let's be creative and discuss these real issues rather than continue going in circles.

Robin Vose
U3 Middle East Studies

Buses to Ottawa

To the Daily,

November 3, SSMU approved spending \$7,000 out of the budget of the VP External. This amount was payment to FEUQ, even though two large undergraduate bodies — Science and Management — and students living in residences cautioned against such an action.

At that meeting, SSMU councillor Chris Carter called students concerned

about sovereigntist view of FEUQ members "paranoid anglos".

Then the VP External urged fellow councillors to defeat a "superfluous" amendment introduced just to address students' concerns on sovereignty. The remarks and ignorance reflected insensitivity and set up a hostile atmosphere. When one calls another "paranoid" or another's actions "superfluous", one is mean and insensitive.

November 16, SSMU chartered four buses to take students to Ottawa to throw eggs and dry macaroni at the Minister of Human Resources Development. When I was elected my last year, I did not remember anyone campaigning on a platform of pure protest. I thought we study in university where we try to have intelligent discussion.

I heard SSMU leaders quoted often from Principal Shapiro; well, Dr.

Shapiro is on the record having stated he wants consultation and discussion, not having students say no. Let's see SSMU leaders follow that route. I mean: is tuition such a sacred cow that any mention of tuition hikes would attract name-calling, egg-throwing and protesting?

Now, a school bus costs between \$400-\$700. When we rent four we are talking about \$2000, tax included. How much money did it cost to bus the students to Ottawa? Whose money did they spend? SSMU money or FEUQ money? Both of which are contributed by students.

Finally, how many McGill undergraduate students, served by SSMU, went to Ottawa? So many concerns, may be (sic) the SSMU EAC Chair can respond.

Arnold Kwok
U3 Science

MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 8

The Daily welcomes all letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and phone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. We print all letters provided they are not racist, sexist, homophobic or slanderous. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.

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THE MCGILL DAILY

Western complicity in

by MJ Milloy

Kevin Heppner has an unusual distinction: he has been on the wrong end of an aerial bombing by a plane powered by a Made-in-Canada jet-engine. Even worse, this engine was partially financed by Canadian tax dollars.

Four years ago Heppner entered Karen state in eastern Burma to teach in a remote Karen village. Ruled since 1988 by a ruthless military oligarchy, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), Burma has degenerated into a complex war zone battled over by the SLORC and fifteen independent ethnic peoples.

The cruel realities of the war became apparent to Heppner as the SLORC mounted an offensive in his village's region. His community was destroyed by a SLORC pilot in a Swiss-made plane powered by a Pratt and Whitney jet-engine, made in Montreal. Firing rockets and machine guns, the plane destroyed the village, causing the surviving villagers to flee as refugees.

From then on Heppner has acted as a collector of similar stories, canvassing survivors of SLORC brutalities with camera and tape recorder. On November 10th, Heppner came to McGill to present some of these horrific narra-

tives and explain the context of human rights abuses in Burma.

Through the steady click of the slide projector and Heppner's quiet tone, a shocking litany of systematic misery was told. Almost every possible example of human brutality was represented in Heppner's slides and stories: people kidnapped from the streets and pressed into service as porters for SLORC soldiers; villages told to relocate or be "terminated"; male porters collapsing and being summarily executed, tossed into rivers with their hands bound; female porters

raped repeatedly at gunpoint by SLORC soldiers, only to wake the next morning to again shoulder their loads; whole villages being used as slave labour by army camps.

Using civilians as slave labour "porters" for SLORC forces is widespread. One farmer was kidnapped from his fields by the SLORC and placed in a bamboo cage with fifty other men. They were guarded by soldiers and beaten with rifles if they attempted to stand or lie down. They travelled for four days and four nights from the North of the country to the centre. When they reached their destination they were immediately segregated into two groups: those who could work and those who could not.

The able were given fifty pound packs to carry. The rest were shot.

Porters are literally worked to death. Usually after three months of little food and brutal conditions, most porters become sick and weak. When they collapse they are shot, or thrown into a river, or have their throats slit. Alone and anonymous, they die.

Not only individuals, but whole villages are conscripted by the army. Every week written orders are sent from the military commander to the local villages. Villagers must maintain supply roads, do sentry duty, and dig trenches. Women are often raped and forced to do menial work for the officers.

Whole villages are often told to relocate beside army camps or into central areas to facilitate exploitation. Most often a village is told to move by a certain date, after which time the village is declared a "free-fire" zone; any people found by the SLORC in the area are assumed to be "renegades" and will be shot on sight. Or, in the words of one SLORC command: "If you do not comply, we will bomb your village with heavy weapons".

Heppner explained that the SLORC uses these abuses as a weapon of war, in a system known as the "Four Cuts". It means to "deliberately and systematically impoverish the Karen civilian population until they are so destitute and starving there is absolutely nothing to give to the Karen troops. Shell them, attack them, burn them... and use the men and women as porters."

In this light, no abuse is forbidden since it inevitably supports the objectives of the "Four Cuts". The abuse is transformed from random acts to part of a logical system of domination: a system known in other times and places as a holocaust, a genocide.

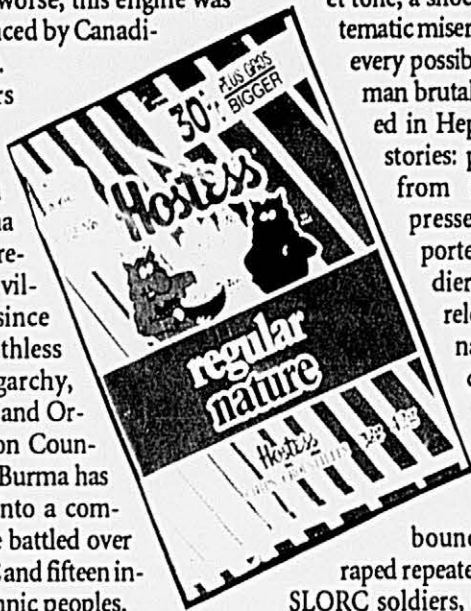
**Multiple sponsors of
Burmese genocide:
Pepsi, the UN, the
Canadian government...**

The lack of any coordinated international response in the face of SLORC atrocities has been instrumental in the survival of the SLORC regime.

The SLORC has turned Burma into a vast killing field, where atrocities are committed not in the name of ideological purity but capitalist gain. The leaders of the SLORC seem intent on creating a feudal empire where the enslaved 'many' work for the profit of the military 'few'.

The partners in this political regression are multinationals, like Pepsi and Texaco, who see the SLORC as the perfect gate-keepers for the exploitation of Burma's vast natural resources and labour. Standing idly by is the United Nations -impotent in Bosnia, ineffectual in Rwanda- whose member agencies help bankroll Burma's "development".

Burmese dictatorship in disguise.



Burmese blood: closer than you think

A number of companies are involved in foreign investment in Burma. Some of these companies are directly supported by McGill in that their products are sold on campus, under agreement with the producers.

Pepsi-owned companies such as:
Pepsi soft drink products
Pizza Hut
Miss Vickies Potato Chips
Hostess

Also:
Texaco
Shell
British Petroleum
Pratt and Whitney
Eddie Bauer



Burmese nightmare

The SLORC has been condemned for three years running by the United Nations Human Rights Organisation. Burma has the distinction of being one of only a handful of nations to be assigned a "special rapporteur" from the United Nations: Bosnia, Somalia, and

abroad and serves to maintain the cycle of repression and violence which has gripped Burma.

The proposed construction of a natural-gas pipeline from Burma to Thailand underscores just how closely human rights abuses and trade are linked in Burma. South of the Burmese coast are large unexploited reserves of natural gas. Boonsong Kositchotethana reported in the *Bangkok Post* that Texaco, Premier Petroleum, Nippon Oil, and PTT (Thai State petrochemical company) recently signed an agreement with the SLORC to buy the natural gas. The foreign companies will pipe the gas to refineries in Thailand through a pipeline across the Thai-Burmese border.

The border area is inhabited by Mon and Karen ethnic peoples. The SLORC has sent in 10 new army battalions to clear the route for the pipeline. With each new battalion comes a corresponding rise in the level of human rights abuses, as the army enacts its characteristic "Four Cuts" litany of portering, slave labour, extortion and re-location of the ethnic communities.

Pe Thein Zea, a Mon leader, says that the sale of the gas will bring much needed legitimacy for the SLORC. As well, the foreign currency generated by the sale will help to reinforce the SLORC's murderous grip on the country. He also notes that the gas has been sold relatively cheaply by the SLORC. Evidently the foreign companies are more than ready to turn a blind eye to the SLORC's means as the will ensure rewarding financial ends.

A railway to Hell

The SLORC benefits not only from the lack of any real United Nations pressure, but also from direct UN financial support of their destructive initiatives. The construction of the Yea-Tavoy railway line is a clear example.

During the second-world war the occupying Japanese forces attempted to build a railway linking Burma and Thailand. Allied prisoners-of-war were used as slave labour and died by the hundreds from malaria, exhaustion and Japanese cruelty. The SLORC is recreating the *Bridge Over the River Kwai* using slave labour as a cast of thousands.

The construction of the railway is part of the SLORC-designed "Border Areas Development Programme". One of Heppner's respondents explained how she first came to experience the railway. A Karen mother of three, the respondent was forced to flee her native village when SLORC forces declared it a "free-fire" zone. Her husband was killed when he tried to resist the re-location orders. When she arrived at the re-location village she found 7,000 people in a desolate camp sharing one dirty water supply.

Further Action:

- Boycott the products of companies investing in Burma, and write a letter to them explaining why.
- Write a letter to Mr. Chuan Leepkai, Prime Minister of Thailand, (c/o The Prime Minister's Office, Government House, Thanon Nakhon Pathom, Bangkok 10300, Thailand) expressing your hope that the Thai government will work towards a more democratic and free Burma.
- Log on to the Internet newsgroup soc.culture.Burma for more information about events in Burma.

The situation in Burma illustrates the dangers of choosing trade links over concerns for human rights...the money invested in Burma helps to finance the dictatorships arms purchases abroad and serves to maintain the cycle of repression and violence which has convulsed Burma.

Afghanistan are among others.

What sets Burma apart from Bosnia or Somalia are the riches to be made from the foreign exploitation of Burmese resources: uncut stands of teak, rubies, natural gas, agriculture and human labour. The foreign community is "happy to keep it quiet," Heppner believes, "but that ensures the situation gets worse and worse."

There is no arms or trade embargo of Burma. Although the Canadian government has condemned the SLORC, both Pratt and Whitney and Lytton Systems continue to build military equipment used by the SLORC. Much of this equipment is produced with subsidies from the Department of Defence to improve the efficiency of Canadian defence contractors.

The situation in Burma illustrates the dangers of choosing trade links over concerns for human rights. Foreign involvement in Burma helps to strengthen the SLORC's grip on the country by providing legitimacy to the dictatorship. More importantly, the money invested in Burma helps to finance the SLORC's arms purchases

Soon, the SLORC started emptying the camp in lots of 1,000 people.

Taken from their homes and used as slaves, these people broke rocks for the "development programme". Heppner's respondent explained how "whenever we became lazy we were beaten with rifle butts". Because of the heat, poor food and long hours "people were dying every day".

The Border Areas Programme is funded in part by the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF. A SLORC officer on the Development Committee does not see anything amiss: "people are dying every day. It is a normal thing."

Trade Kills

The SLORC and the world community have forged a tidy alliance. Foreign governments and the United Nations mouth empty condemnations while business continues unabated. Multinationals, seeing the phenomenal growth in other South East Asian economies, invest with little fear of international censure.

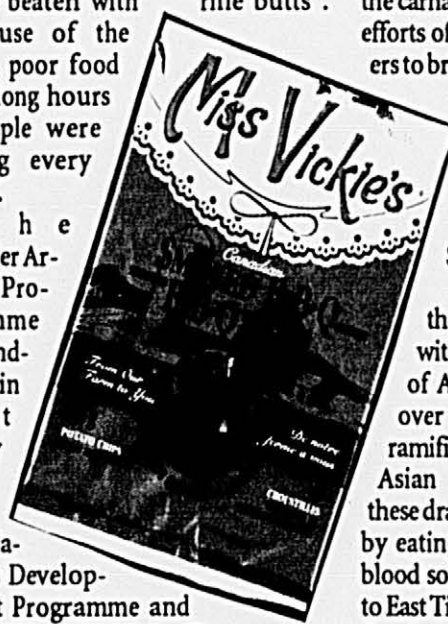
The SLORC has taken advantage of the observation that the world community is as often motivated by economy as morality. By providing the means for foreign investment, an oppressed populace and easy access to natural reserves, its members enrich

themselves.

Public ignorance is the crux upon which this alliance turns. As long as there is no pressure against Western governments and companies to stop their concrete support of the SLORC, hopes for an end to the carnage will remain hopes. The efforts of Kevin Heppner and others to bring the various tragic Burmese narratives to global attention is the beginning of a process which may lead to an emphatic denunciation of the SLORC regime.

In the near future, though, it appears that trade with the "emerging dragons" of Asia will take precedence over any examination of the ramifications this trade has on Asian people. Unfortunately, these dragons are growing wealthy by eating their young— from the blood soaked square of Tianamen to East Timor. These repressive tendencies are reinforced by a Western response which clearly indicates that profit is the only real concern. Among some commentators there is the belief that social improvements will "trickle down" as a result of the integration of Asia into the world economy. In Burma, the reverse is true: more trade will lead to further attacks on basic human rights.

The true consequences of choosing trade over human rights in Burma should serve as a warning to those glorifying these trading opportunists. The recent sorry spectacle of "Team Canada"—the Canadian government delegation that was recently in Asia drumming up trade— dining by Tianamen square with the masterminds of the 1989 massacre should be viewed in this light.



Kemano dam project questioned

"TIMES HAVE CHANGED AND PUBLIC VALUES HAVE CHANGED OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS. SOCIETY IS NOW FAR MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF SUCH DEVELOPMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL NOT TRADE THE FISHERY, TOURISM, RECREATION, AND AESTHETIC VALUES OF B.C.'S RIVERS FOR MAJOR POWER PROJECTS."

— B.C. Liberal leader Gordon Campbell

BY DENA CATOR

VICTORIA (CUP) — Conflict concerning Alcan's Kemano Completion Project resumed last month when B.C. Liberal leader Gordon Campbell called on the New Democratic Party (NDP) government to permanently shelve the project.

If completed, the Kemano dam could divert as much as 88 per cent of the water from the Nechako River, located in north-western B.C., to the Kemano powerhouse.

Critics are saying the venture will threaten spawning grounds which serve 20 per cent of the Fraser River sockeye salmon population, as well as significantly reduce water levels. Campbell said the potential negative environmental and economic impacts on the river system are too serious to ignore.

"Times have changed and public values have changed over the last 30 years. Society is now far more

concerned about the impact of such development on the environment," Campbell said.

"British Columbians will not trade the fishery, tourism, recreation, and aesthetic values of B.C.'s rivers for major power projects."

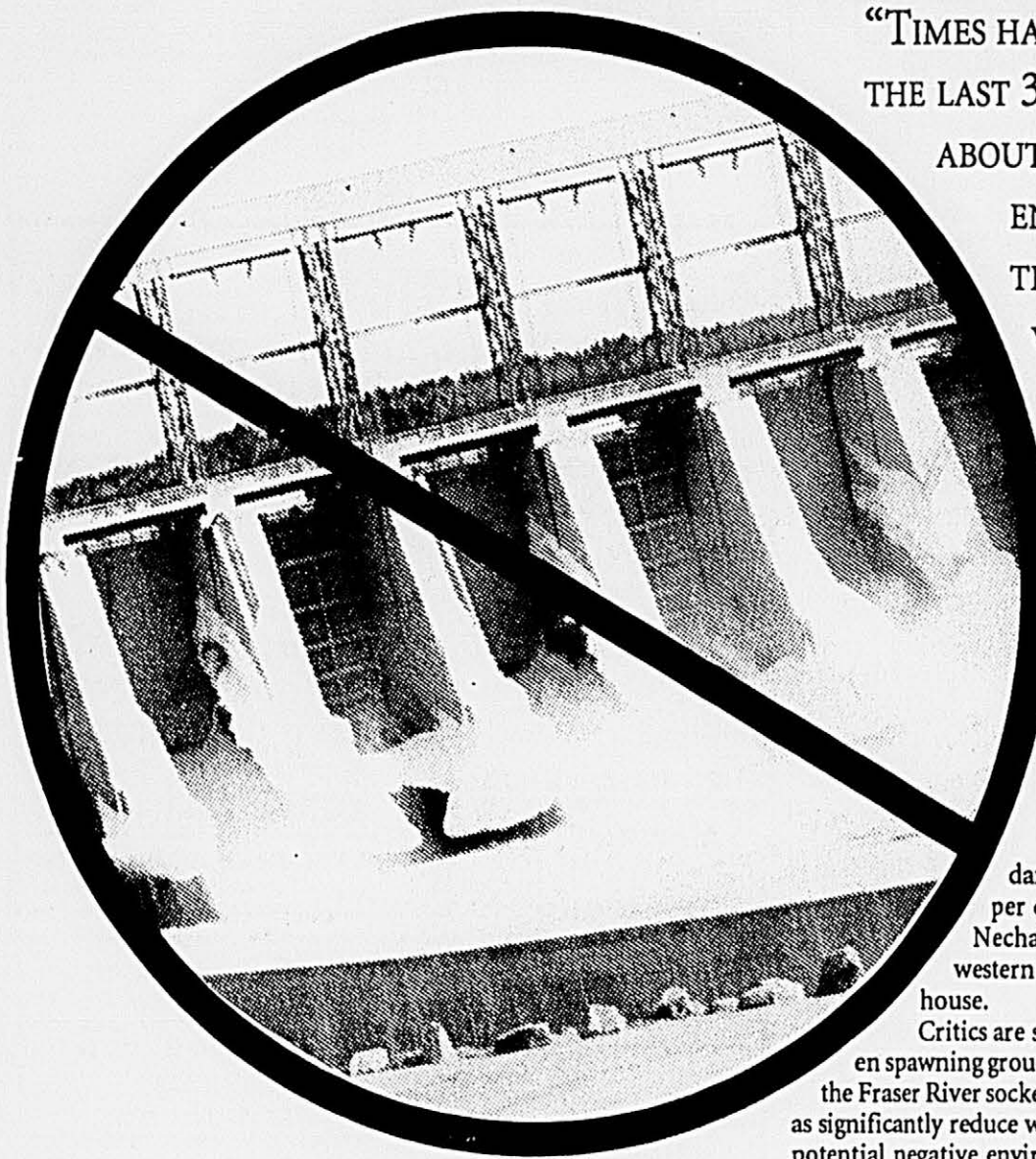
Alcan responded to Campbell's announcement by saying that the Liberal's stand was premature since the results of a year-long public review of the project by the B.C. Utilities Commission has not yet been published.

"We are still a participant in a public-hearing process that is not yet complete," said Bill Rich, Alcan's vice-president for British Columbia.

"Without prejudging the outcome of the review, we felt we had to point out to the Liberal party research staff that the information before the commission is much more extensive and reliable than the information contained in their backgrounder."

Campbell made his statement two years after Liberal Neil Sweeney began researching Alcan's \$1.3 billion hydroelectric development plan.

"People say that we've flip-flopped on this issue," said Sweeney. "But that's not true. People have the impression that because of other Liberal ventures, we're lackeys for big business. I think the project should be shut down and so does Gordon Campbell."



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essays...
the stress,
the horror!**

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"You don't need heat, you need thicker blankets..."

Knowing your tenants' rights can save you this winter

JANE BAUER

As the cold weather approaches and landlords across Montréal turn on the heat (or don't), it is important for tenants to know their rights in the continuous battle of rent inclusions and obligations. A landlord's refusal to maintain the lodging, keep it bug free and provide tenants with adequate heat year-round (October 1-March 31 is a myth made up by cheap landlords!), are all grounds for action on the part of the tenant.

If your landlord is attempting to convince you that cockroaches are your problem and that anything over 15 degrees celsius is bad for your health, then be aware that it is your right to take action.

Charles Takefman, a lawyer specializing in tenant disputes, suggested "sending a registered letter to your landlord explicitly stating the problem(s)."

The landlord then has ten days to comply with the repairs. If he or she does not comply then the tenant has the right to a rent reduction. Rent reduction is "the loss of rental value measured in per cent of time lost because of the problems with the unit."

This means that if your refrigerator is not working you are entitled to claim a rent reduction for your losses (i.e. food lost and time that you were unable to keep items that required refrigeration.)

If a rent reduction is not applicable, but the repairs

are still not getting done, you can pay your rent through the Regie de Logement. "The Regie will withhold the rent from the landlord until the repairs are made," said Takefman.

If after taking these measures you still do not succeed in achieving harmonious living conditions you can file for cancellation of the lease. This request must be made through the Regie so that all responsibilities are levied from the tenant.

Call the Regie at (514) 873-2245 and someone will be happy to help with any concerns you might have, or try Bennett's Housing Hotline, 488-0412. Good luck and remember that knowledge of your rights as a tenant is the best way to endure the long, cold winter ahead.

Public forums to discuss Axworthy's Green Paper

McGill University's Social Work Students for Justice will hold a public forum today to discuss the proposed changes to higher education funding and the proposed cuts to social security suggested by the Liberal government on October 5. It is hoped that the forum will raise public awareness about the proposed reforms, in

order to mobilize people against the possible reforms.

"If these so-called reforms go through, we students from middle and low income families will be paying off our loans for the rest of our lives, and as social workers, many of the people we work with will be further impoverished," said Keith Patterson, a

spokesperson for Social Work Students for Justice.

The forum will be held Wednesday November 23, 1994 at 18h in Wilson Hall room 104, 3506 University Street

A similar forum will be sponsored by the McGill Post Graduate Students' Society on November 30. Look for more information to come.



events



• **WUSC McGill** will meet Thursday, Nov. 24, at 6 p.m. in Hirschfeld Library's seminar room (5th floor, Burnside Hall). WUSC-UQAM is joining us to plan the symposium on access to education. Everyone welcome. Call 284-0609 for more information.

• **Westmount High School** is having a **Book Fair** on Thursday, Nov. 24 from 3-8 p.m. 4350 Ste Catherine St. W.

• **The Japanese Awareness Club** presents a movie night featuring "Heaven and Earth" (Ten to Chito), English subtitles, on Friday, Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. Room B-10, Union Building. Free for members, \$1 for non-members. For information call Yukiko (287-7176) or Jimmy (846-0588).

• **World Beat Benefit Bash.** Come party in support of a South African black medical student! Everyone deserves an education. Support our initiative, Saturday, Nov. 26 at 9 p.m. at the Medical Annex (right next to the McIntyre Medical Building). All are welcome. For more information call 985-5418.

• **The Caribbean Students Society of McGill University** is having, 'Christmas in November', end of semester dinner, on Saturday, Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m. Union Building Room 302. Semi-formal Dress. Tickets \$8 (members) and \$10 (non-members). For more information call 935-3766 or 989-9127.

• **The Jewish Women's Project** presents "Women as Heroes — Women in Resistance" — a special Hannukah program featuring Dr. Lena Allan-Shure (author, philosopher, songwriter). This will take place on Sunday Nov. 27 at 5 p.m. at Hillel House, 3460 Stanley. Discussion to follow and refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

• **The Coalition for the friends of Rwanda** are organizing a 2nd-hand clothing sale here at McGill in the Shatner Building this Monday and Tuesday, November 28-29th, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Coats, shirts, pants, jackets, skirts, dresses, t-shirts, and children's clothes will be available at very cheap prices. 100% of the money raised will be donated to the

UNICEF Rwanda Emergency Appeal Fund. Any questions, call Alyz Azar (982-9969).

• On Wednesday, Nov. 30, the **Unitarian Church of Montreal** will have a panel discussion on Unitarian principles and values mediated by Reverend David Parke, 3415 Simpson, one block east of Guy and Sherbrooke. For information call 935-1522. Everyone welcome.

• **The Canadian Institute for Jewish Research** is hosting a lecture called "Israel, the Peace Process and Diaspora: A Changing Relationship?" on Sunday Dec. 4 at 9:30 a.m., Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom, 4100 Sherbrooke Street, West. (Metro Atwater). For info call 937-3575.

• **An Afternoon of Light Classical Music**, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom, by 'Entre-Nous' will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. The program includes Brahms, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and traditional Jewish Pieces. There is a charge of \$3. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

attention writers!!!

The deadline for stories for the *Daily's* final special issue on "Struggles for autonomy" is now December 1, 1994. If you have a story idea about a nation or organization, or group of individuals that is trying to achieve independence, come see us in Union B-03.

Ads may be placed through the *Daily Business Office*, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.

McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.00 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day (\$14.00 per week). **General Public:** \$5.00 per day, or \$4.25 per day for 4 or more consecutive days (\$17.00 per week). Extra charges may apply, and prices do not include applicable GST (7%) or PST (6.5%). For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 — WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The *Daily* assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The *Daily* reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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14 - NOTICES

McGill Nightline is an information, listening and referral service. Open 6pm-3am. 398-6246.

LBGM discussion grps. Wed. 5:30 Bi-Group Shatner 423. Thurs. 7PM women's grp. Shatner 423. Fri. coming-out 5:30 & General 7PM, 3521 University.

15 - VOLUNTEERS

Need experience with babies & pre-schoolers or with multiculturalism? Volunteers for Parenthèse, a group for mothers and their young children. Tues. or Thurs. (1:30 - 4:30 pm) at CLSC Metro. Info: Cyndy Spielberg. 934-0354.

THE FINAL ISSUE OF THE FALL SEMESTER WILL BE PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 7TH, 1994. BOOK YOUR AD TODAY BY CALLING BORIS OR LETTY AT 398-6790.

"WE ARE AS PROUD OF LEONARD COHEN AS OF [OUR FRANCOPHONE STARS], AND WE KIND OF LIKE THE FACT THAT MCGILL WAS — WE HAVE TO SAY WAS NOW — THE BEST UNIVERSITY IN THE COUNTRY."

— Premier Jacques Parizeau

Parizeau: Sovereignists not ethnocentric

continued from page 1

groups to that of Ontario, and stressed that Québec fared better in a lot of ways. "What about our minorities? In terms of respect for their distinctness, we haven't done too badly," Parizeau stated. He pointed out that First Nations groups in Québec have a much higher rate of retention of their native languages, than First Nations groups in Northern Ontario.

The Cree have recently intimated that if Québec separates, they may also separate rather than remain part of an independent Québec. This may suggest that they are not as enthusiastic about their relationship with the province as Parizeau appears to be. Nonetheless, the premier congratulated Québec even further yesterday, saying, "in the '80s, we were the first in Canada to recognize Native nations."

But the premier said that Québec would not stop there.

"Does this mean we're satisfied and that the job is done with respect to minorities? Of course not," he said. He said that the province has a commitment to affirmative action programs to make sure that minorities in a sovereign Québec don't get left out. "the bottom line is for the ability of minorities... not to be assimilated."

Québec "problem" like dentist visit

"I would like this partnership [between Canada and Québec] to continue in new and different ways," Parizeau asserted. "When we think of Québec, we don't think of ourselves as Québec in Canada, but as Québec in the world. We are members of the international community as Québec."

Parizeau compared the relationship between the cultures of Canada and the United States to the relationship between what he referred to as "Canadian" culture and

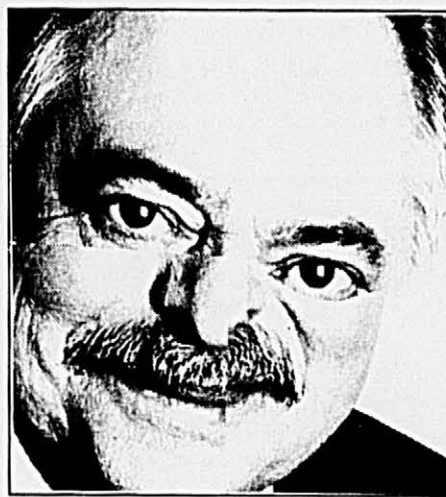
"Québec" culture. "Your national will and ours don't converge," he said.

The premier noted that even though Canadians know they have a lot in common culturally with Americans, and that the two countries have economic ties, many Canadians would still consider a proposal for merging the countries absurd. He suggested that this attitude should be used to examine the question of Québec separation.

"The only way for Quebec to fulfill its dream is to be sovereign. ...When you have [many people living in Québec] who feel they are Québécois first, ...they either leave and have their own country, or they stay [like] a never ending visit to the dentist."

Keeping ties to Canada

Parizeau promised to maintain links to the rest of Canada both culturally and economically. He would



Premier Jacques Parizeau

allow citizens of a separate Québec to maintain joint citizenship with Canada. "I myself will probably keep my old Canadian passport as a reminder of an old friend," said Parizeau.

Francophones in the rest of Canada would be encouraged to keep in close contact with Québec: "Québec sovereignty does not mean

that we will turn our backs on francophones around the country," he stressed. In order to maintain these links, a separate Québec would encourage economic partnerships, openings to Québec's institutions of higher education, and Québec government cultural programs for the use of francophones around the country.

Similarly, Parizeau said that Québec would continue to use the Canadian dollar and Canadian tariff structures even after separation. "We find that the Canadian dollar is adequate," he said. "We are very much the co-founders and co-owners of these dollars."

Finally, the premier stated that he would maintain Québec's ties to the rest of Canada by ensuring that a separate Québec would not back out on its share of the federal debt. "Indebtedness is a tie that binds," he noted.

African-Canadian legal clinic to combat systemic racism

BY HELEN KUK

TORONTO (CUP) — A new legal clinic, designed to combat institutionalized racial discrimination, has opened up to serve Toronto's African-Canadian communities. Funded by the provincial department of the Attorney General, the clinic is the first of its kind in Canada to use the tactic of test-case litigation on behalf of African-Canadian communities.

While not geared to serving individuals, the clinic will refer people to resources and hold seminars and workshops. It is one of 72 clinics established by the Ontario Legal Aid Plan and the Law Society of Upper Canada to address the needs of specific groups.

Minorities need a legal clinic that is more sensitive to their needs, said Davies Bagambiire, executive director of the African-Canadian Legal Clinic. He added that the cases the clinic will handle will generally have more to do with latent forms of discrimination than outright hatred.

"It's not the case in 99 per cent of cases [that] someone is standing there passionately hating blacks," he said. "School board rules, police board rules, educational institutions such as universities, on the face look neutral, but they have an

impact on African-Canadians and [other] people of colour."

In her high school, Nicole Minerve, another member of the association, noted that guidance counsellors were known to advise African-Canadian students having academic problems to transfer to lower-level classes more quickly than they would other students. "It was not seen as discriminatory or racist," Minerve said.

Rather than functioning as a front-line clinic serving individual members of the various African-Canadian communities, the clinic will strive to adopt cases that will benefit the communities as a whole.

"[We will] focus on those cases that have a broad implication for African-Canadian communities in terms of significance," Bagambiire said.

The clinic will take on test cases that confront systemic racism with the goal of setting legal precedents, he added. By proving such policies invalid, discriminatory practices could be eliminated.

He compared his clinic's strategy to that of the American National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) in the United States.

"We are looking more at the big picture and following the example

of the NAACP, which has been around for over 50 years," Bagambiire said.

John Lax, assistant dean of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and chair of the Clinic Funding Committee of Ontario, expects the clinic will play a leading role in fighting systemic racism.

"In the justice system, this clinic is the number one strategy to deal with this problem," said Lax.

"[It will break down] barriers embedded within the system that make it difficult for people not in the mainstream," Lax said.

U of T students said the new clinic was a good idea. Claude Davis, political chair of U of T's African-Canadian Students' Association, says the problem of systemic racism is difficult to confront. "I'd rather have open racism than subtle racism. At least you know where you stand," he said.

Minerve said that she thinks the clinic's goals are valid.

"We do need a law office [that] represents African-Canadians specifically. A lot of African-Canadians don't really have a sense of how the law affects them. [It's] good to go to a place where people will represent us who more or less know where we're coming from," Minerve said.

Burning paradise: another view

To the Daily,

The writer of the article "The Burning of Paradise" in The McGill Daily Culture of October 20 was oblivious to the report of the Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare of the House Republican Research Committee, U.S. House of Representatives (February, 1993), when writing on human rights violations in the Kashmir.

The report clearly stated that the Kashmiri rebels were being trained, fed, armed, and sent across the borders into Kashmir to kill, rape, and devastate the lives of the people of Kashmir and to fundamentalise the secular Kashmir to a theocratic state.

Mian Bashir, a Kashmiri Muslim and an ex-Minister of Kashmir stated in New York in the first week of November "the militants have killed a large number of politicians and leaders like Maulvi Farooq and Qazi Nissar, in a planned way. These are not accidental killings... Besides, there are hundreds of innocent people who also have been killed by them... The militants' headquarters is not in the Kashmir valley but across the border."

That the Kashmiri people knew about the covert operations by the neighbouring Islamic majority country to destroy the secular Kashmir was proved when the veiled Muslim women and the Muslim men of the valley openly shouted slogans like "Down with Pakistan" after the dead body of their beloved clergyman Nissar Ahmad was thrown into the street of Kashmir. The militants did not like his role as a negotiator to release the kidnapped British tourists last summer. (Reported in the Globe Mail, June 21, 1994 and in Time Magazine, July 4, 1994.)

The writer also forgot to mention

about the report of the UN mediator Owen Dixon which was submitted to the United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan (UNCIP) on September 9, 1950. In the report he had stated that on both 20th October 1947 and in May 1948, international law was violated when hostile elements and regular Pakistani forces crossed the border of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The so-called Free Kashmir as mentioned by the writer Neema Abdul Karim is the territory of Kashmir illegally occupied by Pakistani regulars.

A proxy war against India is being misnamed by the pro-Pakistani media as the so-called "Uprising in Kashmir". In this proxy war for the last decade, the minority Sikh and Hindu Kashmiris are being systematically driven out from their ancestral homes in the Valley; and the uddhists are being harassed and marginalised. 350,000 Hindus and 50,000 Sikhs left the Valley to save their lives and women.

Some 5,000 members of the minority community have died in the camps and elsewhere following their forced exodus. About 1,100 minority Kashmiri Hindus were tortured and killed. 105 schools were damaged, destroyed, or forcibly occupied, 103 Hindu temples were destroyed, 14,430 business houses of the minority Hindus were destabilized, and 95 per cent of the Kashmiri Hindu houses were looted and destroyed, so that the people would have no homes to return to.

The militants have started their terror campaign against the remaining minuscule numbers of the Hindus in Jammu. They ordered the Hindus to eat their bread soaking it in the blood of their children. Yes, there is a human rights problem in the Kashmir. And the Interservices Intelligence (ISI) mercenaries from across the border of Kashmir are staging it.

Dr. S. Bamezai